



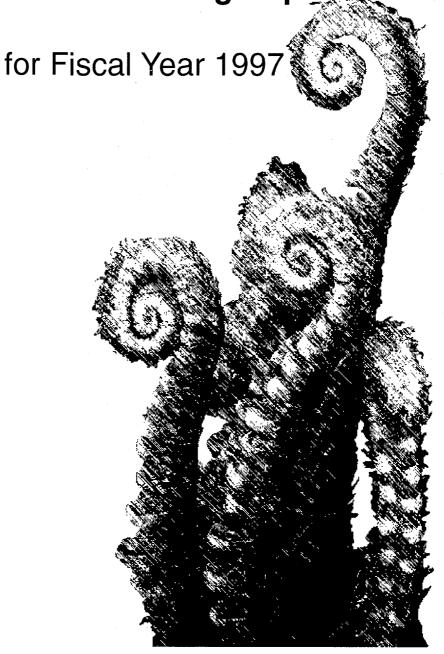
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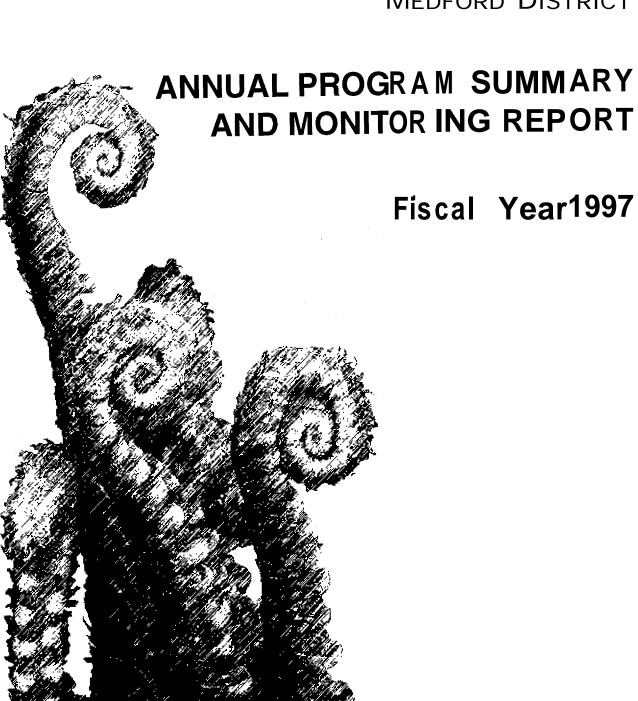
Medford District 3040 Biddle Road Medford, Oregon 97504

July 1998

Annual Program Summary and Monitoring Report



MEDFORD DISTRICT







A MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT MANAGER

This is the second Annual Program Summary prepared by the Medford District. In it we have reported the progress that the district has made in implementing the decisions and commitments in the Medford District Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan. Future annual program summaries will be published after the end of each fiscal year.

Through implementation of the Medford RMP, the District was able to offer for sale 53 MMBF (million board feet) in FY 1997. The District planted approximately 1,100,000 seedlings on 2,174 acres of previously harvested lands and completed precommercial thinnings on 3,914 acres. About 1,039 acres were fertilized and 4,491 acres had fuels treated.

The District, in cooperation with the Umpqua, Willamette, Winema, and Rogue River National Forests, and the Eugene and Roseburg BLM Districts were nearing completion of the South Cascades Late Successional Reserve assessment at the end of the FY 1997. This assessment will help guide future management for these ecological lands. Also completed were numerous fisheries, wildlife, and botanical projects.

The Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) in the Ashland and Grants Pass Resource Areas is a good example of efforts to address ecosystem health and restoration projects. That continuing project involves working closely with different agencies, county and local governments, and local landowners to address issues that surfaced in discussions and on field trips.

I want to thank and express my appreciation to all district personnel for implementing the Resource Management Plan in a professional manner and continuing to carry through changes using the adaptive management concept.

I also want to thank the public for participating in the implementation of the Northwest Forest Plan. Representatives of many types of groups have been involved in various aspects of implementation, including environmental organizations, industry groups, special interest groups, county commissioners and state organizations, business interests and individual citizens. I also appreciate their participation in efforts such as the Province Advisory Council (PAC), Community Economic Revitalization Team (CERT), and Watershed Councils.

Ron Wenker District Manager



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INTRODUCTION

This Annual Program Summary is a review of the programs on the Bureau of Land Management's Medford District for the period of May 1996 through September 1997. It is a progress report on the various programs and activities that have occurred on the district and provides an indication of some upcoming activities for FY 1998. It also summarizes the results of the district implementation monitoring accomplishments in accordance with Appendix L of the Record of Decision, Resource Management Plan and District Monitoring Plan.

Both the Northwest Forest Plan (NFP) and the Resource Management Plan (RMP) embrace the concepts of ecosystem management at a much broader perspective than had been traditional in the past. Land use allocations were established in the NFP covering all federal lands within the range of the spotted owl. Analyses such as watershed analyses and late-successional reserve assessments are conducted at a broader scale and involve landowners in addition to BLM. Requirements to conduct standardized surveys or inventories for special status species have been, or will be, developed for implementation at the regional level.

Implementation of the NFP began in April 1994, with the signing of the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision. Subsequently, with the signing of the RMP Record of Decision in June 1995, the Medford District began implementation of the RMP which incorporates all aspects of the Northwest Forest Plan.



RESTORATION PROJECTS

Watershed restoration is a long-term program to restore watershed health and aquatic ecosystems, including the habitats supporting fish and other aquatic- and riparian-dependant organisms. During FY 1997, three basic types of restoration activities occurred in the Medford District:

- 1) Road erosion and sediment stabilization projects such as closing or resurfacing roads and replacing culverts;
- 2) Riparian silviculture projects such as planting desired species, promoting conifer growth through density management, and developing stand structure and species diversity;
- 3) Inventory of fish habitat and stream channel restoration projects such as installing structures and repairing existing structures to enhance pool and riffle ratios.

Projects completed in FY 97 included:

- Fish passage structures-Replacing major culverts with fish passage structures; installing 10 culverts, repairing eight log weirs, adding logs to streams to enhance fish habitat, and repairing existing fish ladder.
- Riparian silviculture-Planting or releasing trees within riparian areas; planting trees along seven miles of streams and cutbanks, completing 140 acres of cutbank stabilization and promoting conifer growth thorough approximately 50 miles of density management (thinning).
- Grade culvert replacement-Replacing culverts that were worn out and/or leaking to prevent future mass wasting, replacing 15 cross drains to prevent mass movement.

WATERSHED ANALYSIS STATUS

Watershed analysis is required by the Northwest Forest Plan Record of Decision. Watershed analysis has been described as a foundation for management actions like timber sales, roads, and stream enhancements planned in a particular watershed. The primary purpose is to provide decision makers with information about the natural resources and human uses in an area. This information will be utilized in National Environmental Policy Act documentation for specific projects and to facilitate compliance with the Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act by providing additional information for consultation with other agencies.

Watershed analyses included:

- Analysis of at-risk fish species and stocks, their presence, habitat conditions and restoration needs;
- Descriptions of the landscape over time, including the impacts of humans, their role in shaping the landscape, and the effects of fire;
- Distribution and abundance of species and populations throughout the watershed;
- Characterization of the geologic and hydrologic conditions.

Interdisciplinary teams prepare watershed analysis documents by consolidating and analyzing information from a variety of existing sources, including field inventories and observations, history books, agency records and old maps and survey records.



MEDFORD DISTRICT WATERSHED ANALYSIS 1ST ITERATIONS COMPLETED FOR FY 97

Resource Area	Watershed	Total Acres	BLM Acres I
Ashland	Applegate-Star/Boaz	17,652	14,811
Ashland/Butte Falls	Little Butte Creek (Tier 1)	238,456	54,715
Butte Falls	Lost Creek	59,229	19,075
Grants Pass	Deer Creek	72,737	29,922
Grants Pass	W. Fk. Illinois River (USFS)	76,931	5,623
Totals		465,005	124,146

LATE-SUCCESSIONAL RESERVES

At the end of FY 1997, the district had completed three late-successional reserve (LSR) assessments.

No activities were conducted or authorized within the LSRs in 1997. To eliminate or reduce the spread of nonnative species which adversely affect late-successional objectives, the district completed roadside surveys within the five LSR areas (17 1,497 acres) and provided for the release of biological agents. No new land acquisitions were made.

MATRIX

In FY 1997 the age of the harvested timber included age classes of 80-250 years old. The type of harvest varied according to resource area and forest management type. In the North General Forest Management Area, the harvest was generally made up of shelterwood cuts, select cuts, regeneration harvests and commercial thinnings. In the South General Forest Management Area, the cuts were primarily mortality salvage and density management with some select cuts. (For further information, see the TIMBER RESOURCES section, page 14).



APPLEGATE ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA

The Applegate Adaptive Management Area (AMA) continues to build on progress initiated by cooperation between agencies and communities. Land management agencies responsible for the Applegate AMA (BLM and Forest Service[FS]) have increased their efforts in working together and with other agencies, e. g., U.S. Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries, the Environmental Protection Agency, and various state agencies. Public participation of interested citizens (e.g., Applegate Partnership, neighbors, and others) has resulted in a high level of collaboration and innovation.

Interagency efforts have resulted in increased coordination and planning. Completed assessments contribute to program and project. Examples include:

- Applegate AMA Aquatic, Wildlife and Special Plant Habitat Assessment (BLM and FS)
- Analysis of Demographic and Economic Aspects of the Applegate Watershed (Southern Oregon University through Participating agreement with the FS and BLM)
- Stewardship in the Applegate Valley: Issues and Opportunities in Watershed Restoration (Rogue Institute of Ecology and Economy)
- Applegate Partnership Case Study: Group Dynamics and Community Context (Southern Oregon University through Pacific Northwest Experimental Station)
- Draft Applegate Adaptive Management Area Guide
- Numerous interagency watershed analyses (90% of the watersheds in the Applegate River

sub-basin have completed analyses)

Merging of the Geographic Information Systems (GIS) between BLM, Forest Service and private lands for the half-million-acre area has been an essential but enormous task. Russ McKinley of Boise Cascade Corporation called this "a technological explosion." Sharing nonsensitive GIS files with the Applegate River Watershed Council (a subcommittee of the Applegate Partnership), industry, environmental groups, and neighbors has resulted in a surge of cooperative efforts and an increased ability to manage the ecosystems. The Applegate River Watershed Council has been able to use the GIS in restoration planning and projects with counties, states and private land owners. In 1997, the Council had an operating budget of over \$300,000.

The five line officers managing lands in the Applegate (Applegate District Ranger, Ashland Resource Area Manager, Grants Pass Resource Area Manager, Ashland District Ranger and Galice District Ranger) met monthly with the interagency liaison to coordinate activities and opportunities in the AMA. Because timber sales included both FS and BLM lands, planning often used interagency teams. Skills and other resources were frequently shared.

Timber sales and forest products are the outcomes from landscape projects throughout the Applegate AMA. Total volume sold in the Applegate AMA in FY 1996 was 3 1 million board feet (17.8 MMBF from BLM) treating approximately 6,200 acres. In FY 1997, volume sold from the Applegate AMA was 20.4 MMBF



(11.09 from BLM) treating about 5,100 acres. Smaller sales were sold each year to local purchasers.

Landscape projects across the Applegate AMA are similar in that they have multiple objectives such as increasing the resilience of trees, reducing fire hazard, improving riparian areas and wildlife habitat, and reintroducing fire. The Thompson Creek Project in the Ashland Resource Area is a good example. Three sales totaling over 17 MMBF were sold from this area covering large acreages-the largest was an 1,800 acre sale. One environmental analysis covered several sales and multiple restoration projects. Sales typically include a variety of harvesting methods (tractor, cable, and helicopter).

Research and Monitoring included local community members as well as agency and other research scientists. The Forest Service PNW scientist worked with BLM and Forest Service scientists to build on the goals for the Applegate AMA. The technical team composed of commu-

nity and agency scientists met in the field to review proposed and on-going projects. The home page for the Applegate (http://id.mind.net/community/app/) includes current projects in the AMA.

Community participation was a key element of all landscape projects. The BLM and Forest Service held many field trips and visited with neighbors in developing sales. Demonstration sales were helpful to give people a better understanding of the type of cutting being planned. These samples, both of marking and the final removal, proved very helpful in gaining support. People often imagine the worst, but see that the planned treatment is not the disaster they envisioned. Individuals in the Applegate Partnership work actively with the state and federal agencies supporting projects to improve the overall health of the watershed and provide forums for better understanding the resource issues and possible projects. The mutual learning through collaboration has been significant and is reflected in new ways of doing business.



FIRE, FUELS AND AIR RESOURCE **MANAGEMENT**

The Oregon Department of Forestry again provided wildfire suppression under the Western Oregon Protection Contract. For the 1997 fire season, 35 wildfires totalling of 18 acres were suppressed under the contract. In all cases the suppression actions were completed within the framework of the Medford District's Resource Management Objectives.

The use of prescribed fire occurred over 1,893 acres of BLM land fiscal year. The application and use of fire was completed within the objectives established for each land allocation under RMP.

All prescribed burning was done under the Smoke Management Plan. The majority of the burning was handpiling which minimized particulate emissions and allowed for burning under optimum atmosphere mixing conditions. No conformity determinations were required because no burning occurred during the year on BLM land within the designated areas under the Oregon Smoke Management Plan or the Ashland/Medford Air Quality Management Area.

A plan to initiate an Interagency Smoke Monitoring Grid for the Rogue River Basin was started this year. The first fixed monitoring station has been located at BLM's Provolt Seed Orchard. This site will monitor ambient air quality all year. A remote accessible nephelometers and medium volume sample will be in operation prior to the first of the year.

A study has been funded and awarded to

	Treatment of Acres by Appropriation								
			Acres/U	Jnits					
Resource Area	6320	6310	5500	2811	6650	6332	Total		
Ashland	577/22	301/2	46/3	58/7	733/50	20/1	1,775/95		
Butte Falls	100/5	92/9			257/15		449/29		
Glendale		510/19					510/19		
Grants Pass	478/29	931/49	46/2	219/15	83/3		1,757/98		
Total	1,155/56	1,834/89	92/5	277/22	1,113/68	20/1	4,491/241		
% of Total	26%	41%	2%	6%	25%	<1%	100%		

Appropriations:

6320-Forest Development (Site Preparation)

6310-Forest Management (Purchaser Assistance) 6650-Jobs in the Woods

28 1 1-Fire Use and Management

5500-Slash Disposal (C- 1 Buyout)

6332-Western Oregon Recreation Management



		Treatment of A	Acres by Activity T	ype	
		A	cres/Unit		
Resource Area	Underburn	Preparation (Mechanical)	Handpile Burn	Broadcast Burn	Total
Ashland		1,099/39	544/52	132/4	1,775/95
Butte Falls	74/2	254112	121/15		449/29
Glendale	<u> </u>	125/3	327/14	58/2	510/19
Grants Pass	156/3	1,120/59	290/22	191/14	1,757/98
Total	230/5	2,598/113	1,282/103	381120	4,491/241
% of Total	5%	58%	29%	8%	100%

CH₂M Hill Consultants to develop siting locations and requirements for additional fixed monitoring stations sufficient to effectively monitor prescribed burning over the entire Rogue River drainage. Cooperators in the study are the Siskiyou and Rogue River National Forests and the Medford District, Bureau of Land Management which has the lead on the project. Data covering the location of all planned burning by the two agencies for calendar years 1998 and 1999 has been submitted as part of the study. Also pending is a draft memorandum of understanding between the Forest Service (Rogue River and Siskiyou), the Bureau of Land Management (Medford District) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for installing and maintaining the Air Quality Smoke Monitoring Network for Southwest Oregon and the training of personnel. Final approval should be obtained before the beginning of the new year. The grid should be operational with three fixed stations prior to the 1998 spring burning season.

All existing landscape plans, based on the direction in the various watershed analyses, have considered the role of fire, and relative fuel hazard and wildfire risk for each plan and directed the use of prescribed fire and mechanical treatment as the primary mitigation for each plan. In all cases the objective of reducing the potential for catastrophic, high-intensity wildfires has been a major consideration with all landscape timber sales.

All of the program fuels management work tied to current landscape plans is designated for rural interface areas on the district. These concepts have been tested within the Applegate AMA and is now being tested over the remainder of the district's fire-prone vegetative communities.

Fire management input has been completed for the Cascade LSR. Cooperative work is underway between Medford District's Butte Falls Resource Area and the Rogue River National Forest's Prospect/Butte Falls Ranger District for development of a fire management plan that seeks to



reintroduce prescribed burning within the Elk Creek drainage of the Cascade late successional reserve. No other work is currently planned or funded for the remaining LSRs on the district. Full hazard reduction work based on the directions established in 1991 continued to be an emphasis in the Applegate AMA. Fire hazard reduction work is being done cooperatively with many local residents within the AMA.

The use of prescribed natural fire has not been identified as part of any alternative for any fire management activity plan developed to date. Preparation of fire management plans for special protection areas such as Areas of Critical Environmental Concern has been minimal due to lack of direction, personnel and funding.

TIMBER RESOURCES

To make up the total volume commitment, the Medford District's timber resources volumes came primarily from two sources--the adaptive management area (page 10) and the matrix area (page 9). Each of the areas had basic silvicultural systems applied to the land base. The following are brief descriptions of those harvest methods.

Rights-of-way: Removal of all timber and vegetation to facilitate the construction of an access road.

Regeneration harvest: Timber harvest in which the partial objective is opening a forest stand to the point where favored tree species can be established.

Shelterwood: A regeneration method under an even-aged silvicultural system where a portion of the mature stand is retained as a source of seed and/or protection during the regeneration period.

Select cut: A method of uneven-aged management in which single trees (single-tree selection) or groups of trees (group selection) are harvested from stands without harvesting the entire stand at any one time.

Commercial thinning: Removing merchantable trees from an even-aged stand to encourage growth of the remaining trees.

Mortality salvage: Harvesting dead and dying timber.

Density management: Cutting trees for the primary purpose of widening their spacing to allow the growth of the remaining trees to accelerate. Used also to improve forest health or, if maintenance or restoration of biological diversity is the objective, to accelerate the attainment of old-growth characteristics.

Overstory removal: The final stage of cutting in which the remaining overstory trees are removed to allow the understory to grow.

Hardwood removal: Harvesting hardwoods within a stand in which coniferous species are dominant.



modifications which may change acres, volume, and cutting methods throughout the life of the contract. They also do not Listed below are the volumes offered during fiscal year 1997. These figures do not contain the active contract include the replacement-volume mandated as part of the Congressional Rescissions Act (Public Law 104-19).

ADAPT	IVE MAI	NAGEN	IENT AF	ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT AREA (AMA)						
FY 97	Totals	Right- of- Way	Regen- eration Harvest	Shelterwood	Select	Commercial Thinning	Mortality Density Salvage Manage	Density Management	Over- story Removal	Hardwood Removal
ACRE	2,638.0	25.0	0.0	246.0	494.0	0.0	0.0	1,7797.0	0.0	0.0
(MIMBF)	15,948.0	197.0	0.0	1,282.0	6,227.0	0.0	0.0	8.220.0	0.0	0.0
GENER	GENERAL FOREST MAI	EST M	IANAGEN	NAGEMENT AREA (GFMA)	(GFMA	(
ACRE	5,745.0	21.5	208.0	0.0	0.96	2,304.0	1,557.0	1,471.0	92.0	0.0
VOL. (MMBF)	30,085.5	570.0	6,378.0	0.0	660.2	11,313.0	4,733.s	6,571 .0	3,361.0	0.0
TOTAL	TOTAL FY 97 PROGRAN	ROGR	AM							
ACRE	8,383.0	45.0	208.0	246.0	9.065	2,304.0	1,557.0	3,250.0	92.0	0.0
(MMBF)	50,033.5 767.0	0.797	6,378.0	1,282.0	6,887.0	11,313.0	4,733s	14,791.0	3,361.0	0.0



	Allowable Sale Quantity (A	SQ)
Resource Area	Target FY 97 (MMBF)(B)	Offered FY 97(MMBF)*(G)
Ashland	18,704.0	23,553.4
Butte Falls	14,813.0	10,977.4
Glendale	13,640.0	11,251.2
Grants Pass	9,918.0	7,304.3
Total	57,075.0	53,086.3

^{*}The total offered volume *includes* volume from contract modifications and volume from special forest products (posts and poles).

PORT ORFORD CEDAR

Port Orford Cedar (POC) continues to be threatened by the root rot disease caused by *Phytophthora lateralis* in all its range in Southwest Oregon and Northwestern California. In 1996, the Medford District completed a roadside survey to detect the presence of healthy and dead or dying POC in its range within the district. The percentage of mortality was also estimated. In 1997 this effort continues with aerial observations and more field detections further into the

forests. A preliminary plan was developed to do a sanitation salvage sale in the Grants Pass Resource Area, which will be sold in FY 1998. BLM is cooperating with the Forest Service and Oregon State University in screening for genetic resistance to the disease. Road closures to minimize the spread of the disease continue to be an option as the extent of the infestation is evaluated.

SILVICULTURAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The Medford District planted 1,100,000 seedlings on 2,174 acres.

Silviculture Practice	Actual Amount (Acres) Accomplished in FY 96
Fuels Treatment Maintenance/protection* Release/precommercial thinning (PCT)*	1,165 7,519 <i>4,076</i>
Acres Planted Fertilization*	2,174 0

^{*}Bringing young stands created in the late '80s and early '90s to a current maintenance level has been a budgetary and operational priority. By the end of 1998, acres treated in the maintenance/protection category will begin to decline sharply, while release/thinning and fertilization will increase to approximately RMP-projected acreage.



FOREST HEALTH

In 1997, treatments such as precommercial thinning, stand thinning, prescribed burns, and planting diverse tree species, plus efforts to contain and control undesirable species of nonnative species (i.e. insects, diseases, noxious weeds) all contributed to forest and ecosystem health. These treatments maintained or improved soil productivity, met coarse woody debris and snag objectives and maintained the natural richness of the tree species.

In 1997, continued attention and efforts were given to protect Port Orford Cedar from infection by a fatal root rot disease caused by a soilborne fungus. These efforts included identifying infested Port Or-ford Cedar locations and participating with others in developing a genetic breeding study. The Medford District is continuing to combat the spread of sugar pine blister rust by producing seeds that are genetically tested for resistance at the district's Charles A. Sprague Orchard in Merlin.

SPECIAL FOREST PRODUCTS (SFP)

The special forest products program is monitored by a coordinator within each resource area on a continuing basis to ensure the sustainability and protection of the resources. During this evaluation period several conferences were held on a regional level, but no specific guidelines for the management of individual special forest products were developed.

CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural inventories were conducted on numerous projects to fulfill district responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Material from all sites excavated on Medford District BLM lands were curated at Southern Oregon University, in accordance with Department of Interior Museum Property Handbook, Part 411.

Two environmental history overviews were completed describing the role of humans in shaping the landscape, with particular attention paid to the Applegate and Illinois valley areas. These documents serve as reference documents for the district and are supplemented by research on specific watersheds when necessary as part of the watershed analysis process.

American Indian groups have continued to participate in district projects concerning cultural resources, including summer field schools and the documentation of a rock art site. The district assisted the Klamath Tribes with cultural resource technician training and requested tribal views on interpretative material about American Indian sites.

Public outreach and education goals were addressed as the district continued to use student interns from Southern Oregon University for a variety of projects including site inventory and assessment; cohosted the regional State of Jefferson cultural heritage conference; and participated in a number of public presentations regarding cultural resources. The district also conducted two field schools, one in partnership with Pomona College and the other in partnership with Southern Oregon University and the Southern Oregon Historical Society. Public outreach goals were also addressed through a class on using BLM's Exploring Oregon's Past: A Teachers' Activity Guide taught jointly with Southern Oregon University.



NOXIOUS WEEDS

Containment and/or reducing noxious weed infestations on Medford District-administered lands in five counties (Jackson, Josephine, Douglas, Coos, and Curry) using an integrated pest management approach is critical if native and natural ecosystems are to survive. Currently, we are tracking 12 species of noxious weeds (yellowstar thistle, purple loosestrife, spotted knapweed, diffuse knapweed, rush skeletonweed, leafy spurge, Canada thistle, Scotch broom, Spanish broom, tansy ragwort, puncturevine, meadow knapweed). The number of species targeted each year is subject to change depending on new infestations, funding, and effectiveness of control methods. In 1996, the five late successional reserves totalling 17 1,497 acres were inventoried. Eighteen groups of biological control agents were released on yellowstar thistle, and two on spotted knapweed, One chemical treatment was used to clear a quarry of yellowstar thistle. In 1997, seven watersheds totalling 733,146 acres were inventoried. A contract to aerially survey purple loosestrife was written.

In addition, the following projects were completed:

- 1) Contract with Rural Outdoor Education
 - a) pulled yellowstar thistle-5 acres
 - b) clipped seed heads from purple loose- strife-2 acres
- 2) Bio-control release on Canada thistle-. 1 acre
- 3) Box 0 yellowstar thistle treatment-150 acres
- 4) Spanish broom treatment-.25 acre
- 5) Handpull spotted knapweed-. 1 acre
- 6) Handpull/chop Scotch broom-2 acres
- 7) Handpull tansy ragwort—.1 acre
- 8) Produced of noxious weed garbage bags
- 9) Interagency Noxious Weed Workshop & Field Trip
- 10) Discuss noxious weeds with 11 nurseries in Rogue Valley.

TERRESTRIAL WILDLIFE PROGRAM

The watershed analysis and late-successional seserve assessment process mentioned earlier in this report assesses wildlife species habitat needs and recommends manipulating wildlife habitat to benefit a variety of species.

High priority sites for species management are being identified. Sites with listed species (bald eagle, peregrine falcon, spotted owl) are being identified and protected to varying degrees. Survey and manage amphibians (Del Norte salamander and Siskiyou Mountains salamander) as well as the red tree vole were surveyed in FY 1997 actions with ground disturbing activities.

The district has had restoration projects on going in all four resource areas. The Ashland Resource Area has had 800 acres of brush field restoration in the Hinkle, Lower Thompson and Middle Thompson Creek areas. They also completed the Box 0 Ranch Management Plan and burned 200 acres of grassland. The Butte Falls area burned and completed a winter scarification project within the Fred-n-Jack timber sale. Another 55 acres were treated at Antioch and Cold Springs. The Grants Pass Resource area had 380 acres of brush field conversion and underburns.

No new wildlife interpretive facilities projects were started during this time period. The district continued maintaining the Pacific Crest Trail, the Hyatt Lake Watchable Wildlife site, the Rogue River Trail and the Table Rocks trails.



SURVEY AND MANAGE SPECIES

FISHERIES

Surveys were conducted for the vascular plants listed in RMP/ROD (Appendix C) prior to ground disturbing activities. These were part of the surveys conducted for special status plants. At this time, protocols have not been developed and we are not required by the BLM state office to survey for species in Appendix C. However, some surveys have been done for bryophytes, lichens, and fungi.

Protection buffers are being provided on a siteby-site basis for specific rare and locally endemic species of plants in the upland matrix. All known sites for surveying strategy 2 (a strategy to manage known sites) are being protected.

Known sites for vascular plants and non-vascular plants (bryophytes, lichens, fungi) are being protected. Buffers are being provided for the known sites.

High priority sites for species management are not being identified. Botanists have discussed some sites, but have not yet brought these forward to managers.

General regional surveys will be conducted out of the Regional Ecosystem Office and have begun.

Under the Northwest Forest Plan, the district inventoried two species of lady's slipper orchids (Cypripedium montanum and Cypripedium fasciculatum), and candy stick species (Allotropa virgata). One hundred and six sites were found on the district for the three species. (Sites are not indicative of populations.)

Medford District personnel continued to evaluate the impacts and proposed mitigation associated with timber sales, road construction, and maintenance. A significant amount of fisheries program time was spent on project level National Environmental Protection Act documents, watershed analysis, inventory, monitoring, and Threatened and Endangered Species program requirements. The district prepared biological assessments for formal consultation for proposed and on-going projects for the listed Umpqua River cutthroat trout and the northern California/southern Oregon coho salmon. All district-proposed and on-going actions were determined to be in compliance with the RMP/ ROD biological opinion and consultation was completed without disruption to scheduled project implementation.

The district continued to implement significant watershed restoration projects. These projects included replacement of grade culverts; installation of culverts designed for passage of aquatic organisms; repair of fish ladders; repair and redesign of log weirs; addition of woody debris to streams to control sedimentation; road stabilization and decommissioning; and riparian silviculture projects.



SPECIAL STATUS AND SEIS SPECIAL ATTENTION SPECIES HABITAT

Special status plant species are being addressed when deciding whether or not to go forward with forest management and other actions. Inventories of all land-disturbing activities detect the presence or absence of these species. More than 50,000 acres were inventoried in FY 1997. Specific mitigation occurs for each species. If it appears mitigation will not protect the species, the proposed project may be rerouted or that portion of the project may be dropped.

The actions identified in plans to recover species are being implemented. Many species do not yet have identified plans. This is one area that needs more work.

Coordination with other agencies is occurring on several special status plant species. Medford District has three signed interagency conservation strategies. The district has completed different monitoring reviews, genetic testing, inventories and shared data with other agencies. The district continues to share all known site data with Oregon Natural Heritage, as well as other federal agencies in Oregon.

Completed conservation strategy plans have been approved and are being implemented for Umpqua mariposa lily (*Calochortus umpquaensis*), Umpqua swertia (*Frasera umpquaensis*) and tall bugbane (*Cimicifuga data*). Several other plans are in draft stages.

The Medford District, in cooperation with Oregon Department of Agriculture and The Nature Conservancy, continued the demographic monitoring of Cook's lomatium (Lomatium cookii), a Federal Candidate Species found in vernal wet valley floor meadows in southern Oregon. This habitat is rapidly being lost to urban development. This is the fifth year of monitoring that began to show an increase in the total number of plants.

RECREATION

A 300' by 300' irrigated playfield was constructed at the Hyatt Lake Campground in 1997. The field will be available for use in 1998. Use at the campground continues to increase yearly. A draft management plan for the Pacific Crest National Scenic Trail was released for comment and the plan will be finalized in 1998.

The Gold Nugget recreation site was renovated with accessible trails and an accessible restroom added.

Backcountry Byways, trails, recreation sites, and the Table Rocks Outstanding Natural Area continue to be publicized and intensively managed for recreation. Numerous elementary school children participated in guided hikes on the Table Rocks and local communities continue to benefit from tourists who are attracted to these recreation opportunities.

Management plans for Areas of Critical Environmental Concern are in various stages of completion and revision. Some are adequate and will remain in effect, others are being revised, and many are yet to be written. The status of plans is shown in the following table.

The preparation of the other plans for special recreation management areas, trails, and proposed recreation signs, however, was limited due to lack of personnel, funding or other priorities.

The Soda Mountain Wilderness Study Area is still managed under the Interim Management Policy of Lands Under Wilderness Review pending future legislation.



	ST	CATUS OFACEC	MANAGEMENT PLANS	
# ACECs from RMP		# ACEC Plans that Need Revision	# ACEC Plans Previously Completed and Current in FY 97	# New ACEC Plans that Need to be Written
30	0	2	2	26

OFF-HIGHWAY VEHICLES

Existing off-highway vehicle (OHV) closures within the Congressionally designated Rogue National Wild and Scenic River and the Pacific Crest National Trail (except for roads crossing the Pacific Crest Trail) will continue in order to protect their recreational resource values.

OHV uses, as related to research natural areas, areas of critical environmental concern, environmental education areas and other designated areas, are continuing to be regulated as specified in Medford RMP, pages 66-67.

In 1997, an aerial survey of Port Orford Cedar infected with root rot disease was completed. Off-highway vehicle use will be limited to designated roads within the infested areas.

WILD AND SCENIC RIVER PROGRAM

The Medford District Office is revising its river plan for the 27-mile Hellgate Recreation Area (i.e., confluence of the Applegate River and the Rogue River downstream to Grave Creek) of the National Wild and Scenic Rogue River. The Hellgate Recreation Management Plan/Draft

Environmental Impact Statement is scheduled for a 60-day public review period in summer of 1998.

Conformance with the Aquatic Conservation Strategy objectives and implementation of the River Plan is pending plan approval.

MINERALS RESOURCES (MINING)

The Medford District has more than 200 active mining notices. Each year we inspect about one-half of all mining sites on the district. In 1997, 130 sites that were the most likely to have impacts on other resources were inspected. Two sites were placed in noncompliance status.

The district continues to sell mineral materials to the public including clay, decorative rock, and quarry rock used for driveways and roads. Ten materials sales were made to businesses and private citizens in FY 97.



RESEARCH

In 1996, the Medford district participated in an intensive effort with the Forest and Rangeland Ecosystems Science Center and other districts to review the literature and ongoing research projects in BLM and to identify gaps in knowledge and applied research. This effort resulted in the publication of A Research Problem Analysis in Support of the Cooperative Forest Ecosystem Research (CFER) Program (June 30, 1997), an excellent review of Research status and assessment of needs for forests and ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest. The Medford District currently participates in research projects such as density management and regeneration of Douglas fir and other species, a retrospective study of how management history affects species diversity, and the identification and evaluation of northern spotted owl habitat.

SOCIOECONOMIC CONDITIONS

The district provides employment opportunities for local companies, contractors, and individuals in the implementation of the resource management plan and Northwest Forest Plan. Timber sales, silvicultural treatment projects (thinning, and planting trees), repair of storm damaged roads, the collection of ferns, mushrooms and firewood, and the recreational use of public lands all provide work opportunities.

Medford BLM, in coordination with other federal, state, and local governments, participates in the Northwest Forest Plan's Jobs in the Woods (JITW's/Watershed Restoration Program). The program provides on-the-job training opportunities for workers displaced from forestry-related work. The workers are hired to work on crews restoring fish and forestry habitat. In addition to hiring crews, part of the money is

used to hire local area contractors to do restoration work.

The Oregon and California (O&C) Grant Lands Act of 1937 requires revenues from the O&C lands be redistributed to the 18 O&C counties. Historically, O&C receipts from the harvest of timber in western Oregon have been and remain a significant source of revenue to both the U.S. Treasury and the O&C counties. However, because of resource conflicts, harvest levels have dropped significantly from historic levels. This drop has had a significant impact on local economies.

The traditional O&C Act payment formulas were modified in the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993. The act provides the western Oregon counties a "special payment amount" based on the annually decreasing percentage of a 5-year average (1986-1990), replacing the old O&C formula. The following table shows the total payment schedule through the year 2003. Counties will receive the special payment smount from 1994 to 1998. From 1999 through 2003, payments to counties will be either the special payment amount identified, or fifty percent of total receipts, whichever is greater.

ľ	Counties from Western Fimber Receipts*
FY	O&C Special Payment
1994	\$78586,460
1995	\$75,812,820
1996	\$73,039,180
1997	\$70,265,540
1998	\$67,491,901
1999	\$64,718,261
2000	\$61,944,621
2001	\$59,170,981
2002	\$56,397,341
2003	\$53,623,702

*State total is reallocated to counties by formula.



During fiscal year 1997, collections from timber sales at the Medford District were \$12,472,633.14. As always, those receipts were shared with county governments. The amounts

collected on a monthly basis from O&C timber, Public Domain timber, and payment in lieu of taxes are shown below.

	Receipts fo	or Medford District	-FY 97	
Month	O&C Timber	P.D. Timber	PILT*	Total Receipts
October	605,367.43		98,744.72	704,112.15
November	1,072,864.80		134,861.93	1,207,726.73
December	485,5 19.92	4,000.00	258,108.60	747,628.52
January	620,541.34	21,705.60	88,407.77	730,654.71
February	63,385.95	472,211.95	73,171.13	608,769.03
March	220,818.60	4,080.00	101,780.65	326,679.25
April	205,986.25	14,864.00	102,400.68	323,250.93
May	164,352.00	122,648.00	125,342.88	412,342.88
June	809,649.30	208,577.40	122,671.45	1,140,898.15
July	1,759,426.04		197,713.88	1,957,139.92
August	1,859,852.45	15,926.95	130,142.09	2,005,921.49
September	1,697,269.65	503,844.10	106,395.63	2,307,509.38
Totals Y TD	9,565,033.73	1,367,858.00	1,539,741.14	12,472,633.14

^{*}Payments in Lieu of Taxes

TRANSPORTATION/ROADS

The Western Oregon Transportation Management Plan was completed in 1996. One of the stated objectives of the plan is to comply with ACS objectives. The four resource areas are developing transportation management objectives as part of the watershed analysis process. Road inventories and watershed analyses identified some roads and associated drainage features that posed a risk to aquatic or other resource values. Those activities identified in watershed analyses included:

- · surfacing dirt roads
- · replacing deteriorated culverts
- · replacing log fill culverts
- · replacing undersized culverts in perennial streams to meet 100-year flood event (10).

Other efforts were made to reduce overall road miles by closure or elimination of roads.

There are two types of decommissioned roads:

- 1. **Decommissioned.** Road segments closed to vehicles on a long-term basis, but may be used again in the future. The road is left in an "erosion-resistant" condition by establishing cross drains and removing fills in stream channels and potentially unstable fill area. The road is closed with a tank trap or equivalent.
- 2. Obliterated. Roads not needed in the future. These roads will be subsoiled, seeded, mulched, and planted to reestablish vegetation. Cross drains, fills in stream channels, and potentially unstable fill areas will be removed to restore natural hydrologic flow. The road will be closed with a tank trap barrier or equivalent, will not require future maintenance and will be removed from all inventories.



The district decommissioned 23.5 miles of road through timber sale projects. Another 38 miles of road were closed by gates (18) or barricades.

THIRD-YEAR EVALUATION

The district RMP/ROD requires a formal evaluation be completed at the end of every third year after implementation begins. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether there is a significant cause for an amendment or revision of the plan. The focus of the evaluation will be on whether the RMP goals and objectives are being met, whether the goals and objectives were realistic and achievable, and whether changed circumstances or new information have altered expected impacts as described in the RMP/FEIS.

Simultaneously with other western Oregon BLM districts, Medford has initiated the collection of supplemental information and analyses required for evaluating the RMP. The evaluation will be based on the implementation actions and plan and project monitoring from April 1995 through September 30, 1998. BLM staff have already taken actions to determine if there has been any significant change in the related plans of other federal agencies, state or local governments, or Indian tribes, or whether there are other new data of significance to the plan. Meetings have been held in which key staff and managers from western Oregon districts consolidated and refined a list of internal issues. They also developed a strategy and process for discussions concerning the third year evaluation. The public has been invited to participate in the third year evaluation as well as provide pertinent comments to the district on expected evaluation

issues, analytical tools, new information, or changed circumstances that could be important in the evaluation.

Supplemental analyses on regional, provincial, watershed or other levels will be made available for public review as they are completed. All supplemental analyses and RMP evaluations are expected to be completed by the summer of 1999, when they will be made available for public review prior to approval by BLM's Oregon/Washington State Director. The State Director's findings will indicate whether or not the western Oregon RMPs are individually or collectively still valid for continued management direction or require plan amendments or revisions, together with appropriate environmental analyses and public participation.

MONITORING

Effectiveness and Validation Monitoring.

These two phases of monitoring are long-term models for evaluating the effects of implementing the goals of the Northwest Forest Plan. Effectiveness monitoring is expected to reveal trends in environmental change (magnitude and duration) and validation monitoring will focus on detecting the causes of the changes. The Medford District is cooperating with other districts and the state office to develop an effectiveness monitoring plan for the westside districts. This activity will continue into FY 1998.

Province-level Implementation Monitoring.

A combined team of federal agency representatives and community members representing the Southwest Oregon Province was selected to complete the second year of Province-level implementation monitoring. For FY 1997, three sets of questions were designed to monitor timber sales (129 questions), road construction (87 questions), and restoration projects (89



questions). For the Province, six timber sales, four road projects, and two restoration projects were randomly selected for monitoring.

Medford District Implementation Monitoring. Implementation monitoring was based on a process developed by the Medford District Research and Monitoring Committee. The basis was Appendix L of the RMP/ROD. Questions were separated into those which were project related and those which were more general and appropriately reported in the Annual Program Summary or completed reports. The district monitoring team randomly selected projects for monitoring for the period from May 1996 to September 1997. A summary of the district monitoring follows.

The monitoring team consisted of district core team members and was supplemented with area personnel. Projects were selected for monitoring based on the guidelines contained in Appendix L of the RMP/ROD.

The Medford District started or completed 97 projects from May 1996 through September 1997. These projects included timber sales, small salvage sales, road right-of-ways, collection of special forest products and trail construction. The projects were sorted into the categories listed at the top of the next column.

Timber Sales Riparian Projects
Silvicultural Projects Fish Habitat work
Wildlife Habitat Prescribed Burns
Road Restorations Other

Projects that required environmental assessments or categorical exclusions were randomly selected for office and field review. Appendix L generally requires a 20% sample to be evaluated.

For each project selected, we answered the project-specific questions included in Appendix L. Questions of a general nature are addressed in the specific program articles found in the beginning of this document.

The Medford District is separated into four resource areas. The Resource Area Landscape Planners prepared answers to the monitoring questions for the individual actions based on a review of the files and NEPA documentation. Some questions asked for information that required field review of projects before they were started and other questions required information gathered after projects were completed. The district monitoring group reviewed the entire monitoring package and attended the necessary field trips.

SUMM	SUMMARY OF NUMBERS AND TYPES OF PROJECTS MONITORED MAY 1996 TO SEPTEMBER 1997								
Project Type	Project Type Butte Falls RA Glendale RA Grants Pass RA Ashland RA Total								
1. Timber Sales	7	8	12	11	38				
2. Silviculture	4	4	8	9	25				
3. Riparian	0	$\vec{0}$	0	1	1				
4. Fish Habitat	1	0	0	0	1				
5. Wildlife Hab.	0	0	0	0	0				
6. Presc. Burns	0	0	0	0	0				
7. Road Restor.	1	4	0	0	5				
8. Other	7	5	3	12	27				



NU	NUMBERS AND TYPES OF SELECTED MONITORING PROJECTS* MAY 1996 TO SEPTEMBER 1997									
Resource Areas	Timber Sale	Silviculture Projects	Wildlife Habitat Restoration	Slash Burn	Road Restoration Proiects	Other	Totals			
Ashland	10	3	0	0	0	1	14			
Grants Pass	8	3	0	0	0	2	13			
Glendale	6	2	0	0	4	3	15			
Butte Falls	6	2	0	1	0	4	13			
TOTALS	30	10	0	1	4	10	55			

^{*}See Appendix A, page 28, for all projects considered and projects selected for monitoring.

Results. The district monitoring team, found a high level of compliance with the Standards and Guidelines (S&Gs) contained in the Medford RMP and NFP On projects, the watershed analysis had not been. These were resource-area-wide projects such as gopher control and spring maintenance of previous plantations. Because of the scattered nature of the project units, the analyses had not been completed in some areas. In all instances, the aquatic conservation strategies were addressed and it was determined that they would not be compromised with the design of the project.

One other project was completed without a watershed analysis, but it was a safety driven project that harvested selected hazard trees. In all other instances, answers to the monitoring questions were answered in the affirmative and requirements of the S&Gs were met in full for the selected projects.

Field review of the timber sales and projects indicated that the intent and requirements of the S&Gs had been met for the sampled and completed sales. Ten projects received field visits so that the selected monitoring questions could be answered or required pre-harvest measurements taken. The projects were reviewed in the field for the different factors listed below:

Riparian Reserves Protection Buffer Cultural Resources Species Special Status Species Coarse Woody Debris
Snag Retention Best Management
Rural Interface Issues Practices
Special Areas Wildlife Habitat
New Structures

All projects, with one exception, were found to be in full compliance with the S&Gs from the ROD. The team selected Grubby Wells Timber Sale to look at four different factors-special areas, rural interface, cultural resources, and best management practices. The sale substantially complied with the first three factors. With regard to best management practices, however, one tractor skid road had been located through a dry draw. The monitoring team concluded that another location would have been a better choice. This was one skid road out of an estimated 10. These project results and information on the monitoring process is available at the Medford District Office.

A portion of the questions asked in the monitoring appendix concern projects that have not been completed and which deal with pre-treatment conditions. Measurement of riparian reserves, surveys of green tree and snag retention, coarse woody debris levels, and special attention species were completed on the projects on the following page and will be reviewed



again when the project has been completed. Some projects may take up to three years to be completed.

McCollum Creek Bloody Jones
Fred-n-Jack Savage Green
Salty Bones How Brushy
Sailor's Mill Cold Mule
Round Prairie Home Run

RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN MAINTENANCE

The Medford District Resource Management Plan and Record of Decision (RMP/ROD) was approved in April 1995. Since then, the district implemented the plan across the entire spectrum of resources and land use allocations. As the plan has been implemented, it has become necessary to make minor changes, refinements, or clarifications. These actions are called "plan maintenance." They do not result in expansion of the scope of resource uses or restrictions or changes in the terms, conditions and decisions of the approved RMP/ROD.

Survey Prior to Ground-Disturbing Activities. Instruction memorandum OR 97-007 provided clarification on Management Actions/ Direction implementation for Survey and Manage Component 2 species as shown on page 25 and 53 of the Medford ROD. The Instruction Memorandum provides clarification for the terms "ground disturbing activities, when a project is implemented, and implemented in 1997 or later". When disturbances are likely to have a significant negative impact on a species

habitat, its life cycle, microclimate, or life support requirements, the species should be surveyed and assessed per protocol.

Coarse Woody Debris Management. Information Bulletin OR 97-064 provided clarification on Implementation of Coarse Woody Debris Management Actions/Direction as shown on page 39,47, and 73 of the Medford ROD.

This Information Bulletin provided options and clarification for the following coarse woody debris (CWD) features:

- Retention of existing CWD;
- Crediting linear feet of logs;
- Crediting of large diameter short pieces using a cubic foot equivalency alternative;
- Standing tree CWD retention versus felling to provide CWD substrate, and;
- Application of the basic guideline in areas of partial harvest.

Red Tree **Vole.** Instruction Memorandum OR 97-009 provided Interim Guidance and Survey Protocol for the Red Tree Vole, a Survey and Manage Component 2 species, in November 1996.

Understory and forest gap herbivores. Information Bulletin OR 97-045 corrected a typographical error occurring on Table C-3 in the NFP and Appendix Table C-2 of the Medford ROD. Under the heading of Arthopods, Understory and forest gap herbivores is changed to Understory and forest gap herbivores (south range).

Conversion to Cubic Measurement System. Beginning in fiscal year 1998 (October 1997 sales), all timber sales (negotiated and advertised) will be measured and sold based upon cubic measurement rules. All timber sales will be sold based upon volume of hundred cubic feet (CCF). The Medford District RMP ROD declared an allowable harvest level of 9.7 million cubic feet. See Oregon State Office Instruction Memorandum OR 97-045.



Appendix A

MONITORING

Projects subjected to sampling:

TIMBER SALES

Lower Thompson Creek Middle Thompson Creek

Poor Sailor Grubby Wells Brush Cut High 5 Pointless Fir Mule's Brew McCollum Creek

Grubby Sailor

NearCedar

Roadside Hazard Tree Removal

Nor East Round Prairie Bloody Jones Ponte R-O-W Cleveland Railroad Windy Evans Fred-n-Jack Kin's Wood Sailor's Mill Sterling Wolf Sterling Ridge How Brushy

Tunnel Vision Low 5 Lost Fortune Cold Mule

Grants Pass Salvage

Westside Blowdown Salvage

I-Shank

Bull Creek/Eagle Mountain

Shiney Queen Savage Green Home Run Windy Skeleton Flounce Rock Salty Bones

SILVICULTURAL PROJECTS

Gopher Trapping

GFMA Plant Maintenance Westside Tree Planting

Forest Creek Thinning/Salvage Silvicultural Maintenance Projects

PCT/Release

Progeny Test Site (Veg control)
FY 97 Spring Maint. - Brushing
1997 Precommercial Thinning
Radius Scalp & Grubbing

Tree Planting w/ Multiple Treatments Brushing, PCT, HDW cutting and girdling

Scalping & Grubbing

Progeny Test Site Brushing Eastside Tree Planting

Box "0" Tree Planting/Scalping

Belle Creek Salvage Aerial Fertilization PCT/Release (LSR)

1997 Isolation Maint. - Sugar Pine Radius Scalp & Grub Installation FY 97 Precommercial Thinning & Hdw

1996 Spring Maint. - Brushing

Gopher Control

Tree Planting, mulching, shading & tubing

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ROADS AND CONSTRUCTION

Bonnie/Riffle/Susan Road Repair Lower Walker Road Improvement Drainage Maintenance (W. Evans) Maria1 Road Improvement Perkins Creek Road Repair

SLASH BURN

Sugar-pine Creek Aquatic Habiat Restoration

OTHER

Federal Highways Road Access
Sheets Road Access
Uestern - Tele Corn
Jule Assignment
Osprey Nesting Platform

Special Rec. Permit NNW Riders Kerby Peak Trail Renovation & Brushing

Jochem Rock Pit Expansion Ash Gulch Road Construction

3 1-9-25 Salvage
Panther Salvage
London Peak Trail Construction
Hazard Tree Removal

32-8-25 Salvage
Elk Valley Salvage
Phone Line ROW
Hyball Salvage

Slepy Mine Salvage

Xmas Boughs

Rumblow Salvage

No11 ROW and Riparian Enclosure

Kendall Waterline ROW Boise #23 ROW

Salty Skid Temporary Road Wagner Creek Trail Extension

Bird Spur

FY 1997 SAMPLED PROJECT LIST (by category)

TIMBER SALES

Lower Thompson Creek Middle Thompson Creek

Grubby Sailor Poor Sailor
Kin's Wood Grubby Wells
Sailor's Mill Sterling Wolf
Sterling Ridge How Brushy

Home Run Cleveland Railroad

Windy Evans Fred-n-Jack

Salty Bones Roadside Hazard Tree Removal

I-Shank Round Prairie
Bloody Jones Ponte ROW
Shiney Queen Savage Green



Cold Mule Mule's Brew High 5 Lost Fortune Low 5 Tunnel Vision

SILVICULTURAL PROJECTS

Box "0" Tree Planting/Scalping Gopher Trapping Gopher Control Radius Scalp & Grub Installation Radius Scalp & Grubbing PCT/Release GFMA Plant Maintenance
Brushing, PCT, HDW cutting & girdling
FY 97 Spring Maintenance - Brushing
FY 97 Precommercial Thinning & Hdw
PCT/Release in the LSR
Aerial Fertilization

ROADS AND CONSTRUCTION

Perkins Creek Road Repair Lower Walker Road Improvement Maria1 Road Improvement Bonnie Riffle/Susan Road Repair

SLASH BURN

Sugar-pine Creek Aquatic Habitat Restoration

OTHER

Phone Line ROW Sheets Road Access Special Rec. Permit PNW Riders Panther Salvage Osprey Nesting Platform Federal Highways Road Access London Peak Trail Construction 3 1-9-25 Salvage